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Off Chrono
1 JUN 1956

OVERSEAS MOVEMENT OF DEPENDENTS

1. PROBLEM:

Should dependents of Project personnel (Agency, Air Force, contract and contractor) be permitted to join sponsors in an overseas theater?

2. ASSUMPTIONS:

a. Project AQUATONE is organized for a limited period of time, probably not in excess of 18 months from date.

b. The overseas base, as now organized, constitutes a stripped-down operational base. The organization comprises a bare minimum of administrative support types of personnel and is designed to be readily mobile to meet changing situations.

c. The overseas base should be mobile to a high degree.

d. The overseas base may be moved upon very little advance notice and its personnel may be engaged in lengthy and distant TDY.

e. The security of the Project and its basic sponsor is of paramount importance.

f. Morale of married personnel would be improved if dependents could be located near areas of operations.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

a. Personnel of all categories have been recruited on the basic assumption that they would be required to separate from dependents for a period of 18 months overseas service.

b. During training, personnel have been continuously conditioned to the fact of separation from dependents.

c. Detachment A is now deployed and in the field and separation from dependents has been effected by personnel of Detachment A.

d. Detachment B personnel are now 75 percent identified, with the understanding that they will be separated from dependents during the period of overseas service.

4. DISCUSSION:

a. In early June 1955 when the undersigned first became associated with Project AQUATONE, the question was raised whether or not dependents would be allowed to accompany personnel overseas. At that time a decision was made that we should shoot for an operational-type detachment, with a bare minimum of personnel necessary to accomplish the primary mission, and that we should not burden the field activity, nor the Project, with questions relating to

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the movement, housing, medical support, etc., of dependents in an overseas situation. This concept was further extended to require that the Air Force counterpart units should provide basic administrative support to our operational organization; i.e., messing, billeting, supply assistance, aircraft maintenance, etc.

b. Negotiations were carried on with the major suppliers with this primary decision in mind; i.e., salaries for personnel were established at rates considered sufficient to attract suitable personnel who would agree to the necessary dependent separation. In addition to increased salary provisions, provisions were also made for a 30-day home leave in the ZI at the conclusion of 9 months of overseas service, in order that contractor personnel might be further induced to separate from dependents.

c. Military and Agency civilian personnel were recruited and/or briefed on the operational and security considerations affecting our decision that this operation should be designed strictly to get overseas, do the job, and return. Therefore, no dependents would be authorized to accompany such personnel. Under this arrangement dependents of Agency and Air Force personnel were relocated to points of their choosing within the ZI. There was never any indication that dependents would at any time be authorized to join personnel overseas.

d. In recruiting contract employee types for the Project, great care was taken in each and every case to point out that there would be an 18-month separation from dependents. This point was covered in the very first interview and continuously referred to thereafter. As in the case of contractor personnel, suitable financial arrangements were evolved to compensate for the separation from dependents.

e. The present circumstances of Detachment A would seem to emphasize the wisdom of the original decision that dependents should not accompany sponsors. It may be necessary to move Detachment A from [REDACTED] to Germany, with the further prospect that a move to Turkey may be consummated within the next two or three months. If dependents were now located [REDACTED] there would even now exist a tremendous factor of morale and security within the unit as sponsors would be physically removed [REDACTED] and thus leave their families to shift for themselves on the local economy, far from friends, relatives and any normal assistance which might be available to them if they were in the ZI. If a further move should be made to Turkey, this would immeasurably complicate the matter of family relationships, worry, and consequent lack of morale and efficiency of Detachment A personnel.

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f. If one individual is given permission to have his dependents, even at his expense, physically present within the country where the unit is established, this same permission must be granted to personnel of all categories. We believe it impossible to place the full burden of responsibility for one's dependents upon the individual sponsor. Sicknesses, emergencies, police difficulties, travel problems, financial problems - all continuously arising within any group of people; these problems cannot be ignored by the individual sponsor nor by his unit commander in an overseas situation. This is especially true of Project AQUATONE units inasmuch as CIA has a very definite interest in the

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welfare of each and every person assigned to the unit. Each one of the aforementioned problems becomes, in the final analysis, a security problem for CIA, which, as an organization, must pick up the chips and see that the problem is satisfactorily solved. The unit commander thus inevitably becomes burdened with an administrative and security load which is incompatible with the organization of his unit and his primary objective - getting the job done and getting home. From experience in other situations wherein CIA has permitted dependents to proceed to adjacent countries to await theater clearances before entry into the sponsor's country of assignment, it has been proven that problems do continuously arise which demand the attention of the individual employee, detract his attention from his primary job, and eventually result in the organization's stepping in to solve problems which the individual finds insoluble. It has also been organization experience that in many localities, groups of dependents tend to congregate and to talk unnecessarily, (but out of pure boredom), of the activities of their husbands. This situation presents an unjustified security problem for the Project.

g. It is administratively impractical to describe a "50-mile" circle around the Base, within which dependents may not live. This results in nibbling away to reduce the distance; there is an added physical hazard of transportation back and forth between "home" and the base, etc. Presence of dependents leads to pre-planned holidays, etc., which quite probably will conflict with operational requirements for the sponsor's presence on the job (weather conditions, etc.).

5. CONCLUSION:

a. Present personnel have been recruited, briefed, and/or compensated for an enforced separation from dependents. This policy has been in effect for 12 months.

b. The present field detachment organization, evolved around a working, operational group, is not staffed to take on additional administrative and/or security responsibilities.

c. The required mobility of the field detachment and its personnel makes it impractical for sponsors to adequately care for and provide for dependents in an alien situation. Failure to be able to adequately so care for families will lead to serious morale problems among Detachment personnel.

d. Dependents, even though in the area at their expense and supposedly on their own responsibility, inevitably become an organization responsibility, due to security implications, in the event of any emergency or unusual incident.

6. RECOMMENDATION:

a. It is recommended that the existing policy whereby dependents are prohibited from joining AQUATONE personnel in an overseas area be reiterated and restated.

b. It is further recommended that any violations of this policy be immediately and stringently dealt with.

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